
GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL ASSOCIATION

September 8, 2016, 9:00am
MnDNR – Two Harbors Offices



Welcome/Introductions

In attendance: Bill Blank (President), Tom Peterson (Vice-President), Dan Cruikshank, Greg Fangel, Bruce Martinson, Michelle Pierson (Exec Director), Charlie Moore (ARDC), Ginny Storlie (Cook County Commissioner), Mark Rudningen (MnDNR/Trail Coordinator), Bryan Anderson (MnDOT D1)

- ❑ Approval of July 14, 2016 meeting summary - *Board action required*
- ❑ Agendas and meeting summaries posted here: www.arrowheadplanning.org/ggta

Committee Business

General Business

1. 2016 Annual North Shore Ride
 - Date of ride for next year-maintain 3rd Saturday in August (August 19, 2017)
 - We had 81 riders. Ridership down from previous years (weather, Tall Ships)
 - Volunteers were wonderful- thanks to all who helped make a gloomy day great!
 - Can we track ridership numbers over the history of the ride?
 - 2015 we had 89 preregistered and a total of 130 riders.
 - Keep in mind that the Heck Epic ride (gravel) and the Duluth Bikes Festival (COGGS, MTB) events often happen the 3rd Saturday—can we coordinate with these folks to promote one another?
 - We had additional food from the ride. Some food was distributed to food shelves, some candy to public libraries in the area, and some food was donated to a Grand Marais bike ride event.
 - We have additional T-shirts. Board Member Dan Cruikshank may be interested in purchasing the t-shirts for sale at Spokengear. Michelle and Bill will coordinate a time to work on inventory gear stored at Spokengear and with Dan, determine a plan to get t-shirts out of storage and on people—walking advertisements for our ride!
 - Additional shorter ride- to make the event more appealing to families, add a rest stop and shorter ride option. Having a rest stop at the Split Rock River area, the Split Rock Lighthouse observation wayside, or at Iona's Beach/Twin Points could be looked into.
 - Adding special treats that are designated to certain rest stops. Work with local eateries to say provide local cookies/muffins at one rest stop, have specialty chocolates at another, items like that.
2. GGTA Board Shirts
 - Who all would be interested in a patch that could be affixed to a polo shirt, to a ball cap or ???
 - Michelle placed an inquiry with Advantage Emblem for a patch quote 3x4inches. With a minimum order of 50, patches would be \$2.92 each. This would be our blue logo with the words Gitchee-Gami Trail Association added.
 - Michelle will also check with Carol Krynski of Beaver Bay, who also does embroidery.
3. Membership benefits/Marketing Info

- With kiosk brochure holders now empty, it would be a good time to consider rack card printing. In the next week, Michelle will research quotes and email a proof out for review to the board. Printing some of DNR's paper maps could also be beneficial to the kiosks.
 - Charlie Moore mentioned perhaps the GGTA should look into including a sticker with new/renewing memberships.
 - There was a discussion regarding going more paperless in regard to print ads in the future.
4. Welcome Bryan Anderson, MnDOT District 1 Planning Director
- Bryan Anderson introduced himself and spoke of his background in planning along the North Shore.
 - Gave an update to Board about planned Hwy 61 projects—there are no reconstruction plans for Hwy 61 for the next 10 years. Any projects in the plan are mill and overlay projects. Exceptions to this regard bridges. Bryan reiterated MnDOT's goal to accommodate the GGST in any bridge reconstruction (as was recently seen on the Cutface Creek Bridge).
 - Encourages DNR to identify priority project for future funding opportunities.
 - Advised the Board/MnDNR to look for a solid project to submit to the TAP grant solicitation in October. Letters of Intent are the first step.
 - Anderson queried the board about past grant opportunities. Is it hard to capture funding for projects? Is it difficult for DNR to deliver the projects? Is there a greater need to find funds for acquiring Right of Way and engineering?
 - Anderson noted the new Federal Transportation Bill awarded a substantial increase to Minnesota's DOT budget, but legislation did not give MnDOT authority to accept it due to not passing a transportation bill last session.
 - Bryan Anderson also gave a brief update on USBR41. He noted that Lake County has opted not to provide a Resolution supporting the route due to their discomfort with folks riding the Hwy61 corridor in the county in some places. MnDOT intends to submit the application for the route soon.
5. Formation of a sub committee to further look into promoting more trail construction
- The 2014 MOU can lay framework for a concerted approach to new trail development
 - Michelle contacted Laurel Buchanan who is looking into Lake County's participation with the 2014 MOU
 - Bill Blank asked Mark Rudningen to assist with finding a MnDNR planning staff member who may be willing to be part of a steering committee in addition to himself.
6. Give to the Max Day is November 17th, 2016
- There is a training session in Duluth at the library from 2-4pm. Michelle may be able to attend.
 - Michelle has requested administrator privileges with our page on the site
 - We do have the ability for folks to make a one time donation, or to become/renew memberships via the GiveMN page
7. GGTA Mailing Address Change:
- Our new mailing address is: 1130 11th Street, Two Harbors, MN 55616
- Michelle picked up our first batch of mail sent to Spokengear—it included a very nice Thank You card from Carol Krynski on behalf of the Beaver Bay Community Association thanking us for our help with promotion of the city's first Rhythm and Roots Festival.

Publicity and Communications Officer's Report

Anne McKinsey would like to resign from this board role as of January 2017

- She will write the Fall 2016 newsletter
- In this role, Anne has ensured we have two quality newsletters per year, ride brochures, ride posters, website editing, written news releases, designed print advertisements. Would anyone be interested in taking over one or more components of Anne's position?

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Chad Pierson was unable to make the meeting. He sent on the treasury to date including a breakdown of Annual Ride elements. A copy will be emailed along with these minutes.

Trail Coordinator's Report

- FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) application
 - A draft has been initiated. Michelle will work on the draft and send it back to DNR. It will be sent on to St. Paul prior to submission. Deadline for the FLAP grant is
- Detour in Temperance River State Park
 - Mark worked with Michelle and Charlie Moore to develop a detour map for use on our facebook page
 - Dirt is being moved now, the contractor KTM has until the end of the year to finish project
 - Contractor is also doing some bituminous patching in the Tofte Ranger Station area of the trail
- West Road Update
 - Mark and Kent Skaar to meeting with Beaver Bay Township Board on September 27th at 6pm. As one homeowner was unwilling to permit a temporary easement, the project scope has changed, including a change to the grade of the trail which will now be at 7%, ASHTO's max. Will report additional information at our next meeting.

ARDC Update

- Trail Count Year 2 Update – Charlie Moore presented findings to date at the Lutsen control center and demonstrated how board members may look at the data site online to look and compare data to this time last year. Over all, counts are up from summer 2015. As the counting itself comes to a close in the near term, data from the control sites will be used to determine summer average daily traffic (SADT) numbers. A final report is due at the end of October.
- ARDC updated the GGST Interactive Map Tour with new video, updated GIS lines, some new photos and connected each page of the scoping document to the correlating segment on the map tour. Check out the map tour here:

http://bit.ly/GGTA_MapTour

- ARDC, at request of the GGTA, will print a copy of the Scoping Document to give to MnDOT's D1 Bryan Anderson.

Scoping document can be accessed here:

http://www.arrowheadplanning.org/ggta/ScopingProject/GGST_PlanUpdate_and_ScopingProject_2016_FINAL.pdf

Other Business:

- Dan Cruikshank brought up connecting the Two Harbors city trails to the Gitchi-Gami State Trail. Although the DNR would not likely be interested in assuming trail management, it could be possible to include the Two Harbors system in mapping, and on our website. It was brought up we could include other biking routes (such that we use for our ride) so folks know of other places they can comfortably bike off of Hwy 61.
- Tour of Spokengear/Cedar Coffee Company, both of which are trail association sponsors.

NEXT MEETING: Date: November 10th, 2016 Location: 9:00am, Tettegouche State Park Visitors Center